




Reconciliation & the Fraser River White Sturgeon Management Plan

Lower Fraser River Stakeholder Information Session
November 21, 2022


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Reconciliation – Why?

Colonial policies and programs, including the *Indian Act*, Indian residential schools, and the 60s scoop, have impacted all aspects of Indigenous life:

- culture and social structures
- exercise of rights
- access to lands, resources, services and economic opportunities
- overall health and wellness (including inter-generational trauma and death)



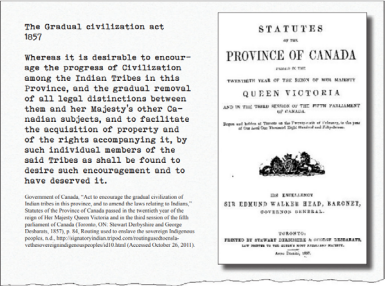
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The *Indian Act*

“For thousands of years there was no such thing as the *Indian Act*. As First Nations we lived free from its constraints. We observed laws that encouraged us to be wise, humble respectful, truthful, brave, loving and honest in our dealings with others”

– John Borrows (2008)




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Call to Action #45

Urges Canada to reaffirm the nation-to-nation relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown, and to:

- Repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty such as the doctrine of discovery and *terra nullius*
- Adopt and implement UNDRIP as the framework for reconciliation
- Reconcile Aboriginal and Crown constitutional and legal orders to ensure Aboriginal peoples are full partners in Confederation, including recognition and integration of Indigenous laws and legal traditions
- Renew or establish Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future



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Reconciliation – What?

A paradigm shift in thinking and action that involves:

- Recognition of ongoing presence and rights of Indigenous peoples in BC
- Addressing past harms and healing
- Supporting strong and healthy communities
- Advancing self-determination

Reconciliation is ultimately about partnering to make for a better BC


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The BC Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* on November 28, 2019, making our province the first jurisdiction in Canada to pass UNDRIP into law

- The *Declaration Act* establishes UN Declaration as the Province's framework for reconciliation, as called for by the TRC's Calls to Action.

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BC's Declaration Act - Key legislative areas


Section 3: bringing provincial laws into alignment with the UN Declaration

Section 4: developing and implementing an action plan

Section 5: ensuring regular reporting to the legislature

Sections 6 & 7: entering into decision-making agreements and exercising statutory decision-making authority with Indigenous governments



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"The Province reaffirms its intent to achieve government-to-government relationships based on respect, recognition and exercise of Aboriginal title and rights and reconciliation of Aboriginal and Crown titles and jurisdiction"

"The Province recognizes that the work of nation-rebuilding is the work of Indigenous Peoples, and is to be conducted in accordance with Indigenous legal processes, rights, cultures, languages, protocols, traditions and standards, and undertaken as part of expressing, building, strengthening and implementing freely chosen governance systems"

DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACT
ACTION PLAN
2022-2027


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Declaration Act Action Plan - Key facts

- The plan is a **province-wide, whole-of-government approach** to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration over time
- Implementation of the plan is to be **carried out in consultation and cooperation** with Indigenous Peoples in BC
- **Each provincial ministry** is tasked with leading the implementation of specific actions over the next five years (2022-2027) and beyond

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Ministry of Land, Water & Resource Stewardship (LWRS)

LWRS action items include:

- 2.6 Co-developing strategic-level policies, programs and initiatives to advance collaborative stewardship of the environment, land and resources, that address cumulative effects and respects Indigenous Knowledge (LWRS, FOR, others)**
- 2.8 Collaborating with Indigenous partners on issues related to conservation and biodiversity in BC, including the protection of species at risk (LWRS)**


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Federal context:

- In December 2020, Canada introduced Bill C-15, *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, setting out a framework for federal implementation of the declaration
- The bill was passed by Parliament and received Royal Assent on June 21, 2021
- The *Act* provides a roadmap for the federal government and Indigenous peoples to work together to implement UNDRIP

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Reconciliation – How?

Reconciliation is ongoing, dynamic journey

Building relationships with Indigenous peoples based on:

- awareness of the past and its impacts
- mutual respect
- renewed fiscal relationship
- commitment to action
- partnering together

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